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ACTION EUR-25

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NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XA, SB, XE, XH, UR, XM

SUBJ: NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS/CONSULTATION ON AREAS
OUTSIDE TREATY

REF: USNATO 3820

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION GENERALLY CONCERN IN EXPERTS' CHAIRMAN'S
COMMENTS (REFTEL) ON WORK OF EXPERTS GROUPS UNDER NEW PROCEDURES
ADOPTED BEFORE SPRING SERIES OF MEETINGS. MISSION SUGGESTS
PROIMARY USE OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE AS NATO FORUM FOR CONSUL-
TATION ON AREAS OUTSIDE THE TREATY'S COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MISSION AGREES FOR THE MOST PART WITH THE CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY DE BEAUSSE, CHAIRMAN OF THE
REGIONAL EXPERTS GROUPS, IN HIS REPORT (SENT REFTel) ON THE
SPRING 1974 ROUND OF EXPERTS' MEETINGS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT
THE PRACTICAL DISADVANTAGES OF MELDING THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE
MAGHREB REPORTS CITED IN PARA 3 HAVE BEEN OVERCOME SO FAR AS
THE U.S. IS CONCERNED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S RECENT INCORP-
ORATION OF MAGHREB AFFAIRS IN THE NEA BUREAU. MOREOVER,
WHILE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE MEETING DURATION SUGGESTED
IN PARA 4 FOR THE SOVIET/EE AND MIDDLE EAST/MAGHREB MEETINGS,
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WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE TIME REDUCED FOR THE FORMER IF U.S.
SOVIET/EE EXPERTS BELIEVE A FIVE-DAY SESSION REMAINS USEFUL.

2. MISSION ALSO AGREES WITH DE BEAUSSE'S SUGGESTION IN PARA 5

THAT EXPERTS, RATHER THAN CHAIRMAN, DRAFT THE LA REPORT. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO SEE MERIT IN BOTH SIDES OF THE ARGUMENT ON RETENTION VS. AMALGAMATION OF SEPARATE ME/MAGHREB AND MEDITERRANEAN REPORTS, WE SEE NO REASON FOR U.S. TO WASTE CREDIT WITH ONE GROUP OF ADVOCATES BY SIDING WITH THE OTHER.

3. TO DATE, OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE NAC ATTENTION TO EXTRA-NATO AREAS BY URGING GREATER COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE EXPERTS REPORTS HAVE MET WITH LITTLE SUCCESS. THIS IS PRIMARILY DUE TO THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE EXPERTS REPORTS ARE READY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL ONLY AT THE TIME OF BUSIEST PREPARATION FOR THE SPRING AND WINTER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY ARGUE FOR CHANGES IN THE EXPERTS SCHEDULE OR PROCEDURES OF WORK, HOWEVER, SINCE THE EXPERTS MEETINGS SERVE OTHER PURPOSES WHICH ARE USEFUL IN THEMSELVES.

4. IT WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE USEFUL, IN ANY CASE, TO CONCENTRATE ON THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, WHICH MEETS ON A PERMANENT BASIS, AS THE NATO INSTITUTION WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORK ON AREAS OUTSIDE THE TREATY. THE COUNCIL AND THE POLADS ARE CLOSELY LINKED IN A WAY THAT THE REGIONAL EXPERTS ARE NOT. AS THE CURRENT YUGOSLAV STUDY INDICATES, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE THAT THE COUNCIL AND OTHER ALLIANCE BODIES TURN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR OVERALL ASSESSMENTS OF EXTRA-NATO DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, THE USEFUL CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE SOVIET/EE EXPERTS IN COMMENTING ON THE FIRST-DRAFT OF THE YUGOSLAVIA ANALYSIS AND THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE EXPERTS REPORT TO THE POLADS WORK ON THAT SUBJECT SUGGEST THAT INTERACTION BETWEEN POLADS AND EXPERTS CAN BE FRUITFUL IF TIMING PERMITS.

5. IN STIMULATING POLITICAL COMMITTEE WORK ON AREAS OUTSIDE THE TREATY, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE NAC, ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS, INAUGURATE STUDIES ON PARTICULAR SUBJECTS AND SET APPROPRIATE PRIORITIES AND TIMETABLES. POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR A FIRST-ROUND OF STUDIES MIGHT BE: THE IMPACT ON ALLIANCE SECURITY OF THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ
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CANAL AND OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA, AND THE IMPACT ON ALLIANCE OBJECTIVES OF SINO-SOVIET DIFFERENCES.

6. SUCH "OUT OF AREA" STUDIES MIGHT BEGIN WITH ISSUES MORE CLEARLY RELATED TO ALLIANCE SECURITY INTERESTS, LIKE THOSE NAMED ABOVE, BEFORE MOVING INTO OTHER SUBJECT MATTER. IN UNDERTAKING SUCH STUDIES, THE POLADS WOULD DRAW ON OTHER NATO ELEMENTS--REGIONAL EXPERTS, MILITARY SOURCES, ECONADS, ETC. AS NEEDED. THEY WOULD ALSO DRAW ON INPUTS FROM CAPITALS.

7. AN ADDITIONAL MEANS FOR EXPANDING NATO COVERAGE OF SUBJECTS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA WOULD BE FOR POLADS TO IDENTIFY IN ADVANCE OF EACH REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETING THOSE DEVELOPMENTS IN

A GIVEN AREA WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE ALLIANCE. THESE WOULD THEN BE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION BY THE EXPERTS AND BY THE POLADS IN REVIEWSING EACH OF THE EXPERTS REPORTS. POLADS COULD THEN DECIDE WHAT FURTHER WORK MIGHT BE USEFUL ON A PARTICULAR TOPIC AND REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AS APPROPRIATE. INSTITUTION OF THIS APPROACH WOULD, IF THE ALLIES ACCEPT IT, REQUIRE US TO SUBMIT IN ADVANCE TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE THE THEME OR THEMES THAT WE FEEL SHOULD BE STRESSED IN THE EXPERTS REPORT AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT POLADS' REVIEW. THESE THEMES WOULD ALSO BE STRESSED IN THE NATIONAL STUDIES SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF EACH OF THE REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS.

8. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE WILL MAKE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN POLADS REVIEW THE EXPERTS' CHAIRMAN'S ASSESSMENT ON JULY 23. (GIVEN PROXIMITY OF DATES FOR AUTUMN EXPERTS CYCLE, WE WOULD PROPOSE SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN PARA 7 BE ADOPTED FOR SPRING 1975 SERIES OF MEETINGS.)

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